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Council Endorses Public Street and Greenway Event Policy

The Raleigh City Council, on Feb. 19, approved a draft Public Street and Greenway Event Policy recommended to it by the City of Raleigh Law and Public Safety Committee. The policy will apply to "parades, road races, charity runs and/or walks, bicycling events and other events involving vehicles, or any other such events that involve the use of public streets or greenways and that involve disruption of normal traffic flow on these facilities."

The Raleigh Police Department Special Operations Division will be the primary point of contact for all events covered by this policy and will maintain the official event calendar. The Police Department will forward applications for events to be held Downtown or on Hillsborough Street to either the Downtown Events Task Force or the Hillsborough Street Events Task Force for review for conformance with this policy and other policies that may affect the respective business improvement districts. The task forces will perform a joint review of events affecting both districts.

No more than 100 events that involve street and/or greenway closings will be scheduled within the City in any calendar year. Events using the same or similar routes, particularly involving heavily used thoroughfares, should not be scheduled on subsequent days or on subsequent weekends. No more than four events will be scheduled in any one weekend. No more than two of these events can be major events that involve either a run of more than 10k distance or the closure of the event route for more than three hours.

This restriction does not apply to events such as neighborhood block parties or events, limited neighborhood holiday festivals such as 4th of July neighborhood parades or holiday luminary walks, or Downtown or Hillsborough Street festivals that are not covered by this policy; such as street festivals, music festivals, other events that are coordinated through the Downtown Events Task Force or the Hillsborough Street Events Task Force. These events are covered by already existing City policies and procedures.



Scheduled events with temporary street closings approved by City Council prior to the effective date of this policy will be able to continue reserving the same date in subsequent years, as long as the event meets certain conditions included in the policy.

No more than two events per year involving a portion of the City greenway system will be scheduled in each of the six greenway system quadrants; for a total of 12 events per year throughout the City. If any event is held on a certified 5k course developed by the City and if the certified 5k course involves a portion of any greenway, that event will not be subject to this limitation.

A \$100 application fee will be charged at the time of application for any event. The City will bill event organizers after any event for extraordinary costs for such things as on-site structure repair, dropping bollards for emergency vehicle access, trash pickup, or damage to streets or greenways.

For more information visit www.raleighnc.gov or call Daniel Howe, Assistant City Manager at 919-996-4656.

Council, City Agree to Co-locate Wake County Emergency Operations Center in City's Public Safety Facility

The Raleigh City Council, Feb. 19, approved a memorandum of understanding with Wake County to continue dual planning efforts for the purposes of co-locating the Wake County Emergency Operations Center in the City's Critical Public Safety Facility located at 2425 Brentwood Road. Under the agreement, the City and County will develop design alternatives for both a single City emergency operations center and an alternate design that includes Wake County's emergency operations in the same facility. A final decision on Wake County's participation will be determined no later than May 1.

Under the terms of the agreement, the City will manage the design of the project with Wake County's input. The focus of the design will be on its efficiency, durability, environmental sustainability, and its compatibility with public safety needs. The total cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$69 million. Wake County's total fiscal contribution to the project will be approximately \$4 million, including \$100,000 for the alternate design of the project.

Completion of the Critical Public Safety Facility is expected by late 2015 or early 2016.

Updated Streetscape Capital Program Plan Endorsed by Council

During its Feb.19 meeting the Raleigh City Council endorsed an updated Streetscape Capital Plan recommended to it by the Raleigh Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC). The commission reviewed the streetscape plan and developed its recommendations with City staff at the commission's Feb. 8 retreat.

The list of projects considered for prioritization was developed with input from BPAC, City staff, directives included in the City's



2030 Comprehensive Plan and the public. Opportunities for input from the public included public meetings and on-line participation.

BPAC and City staff prioritized the 36 projects making the final list based on criteria that included: transit support,

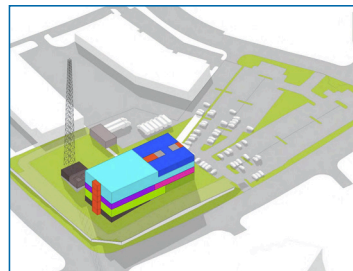
pedestrian safety and demand, appearance enhancement, cycling integration, return on investment, action items from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, traffic volumes, and location within designated reinvestment areas. The evaluation criteria were weighted based on comments received from the public input process.

The top five priority projects on the updated list are:

1. Hillsborough Street Phase II, from Rosemary St. to Gardner St.;
2. Oberlin Road, from Clark Avenue to Bedford Avenue;
3. Hillsborough Street Phase IV, from Oberlin Road to Morgan Street;
4. E. Cabarrus Street, from Wilmington Street to Chavis Way; and,
5. New Bern/Edenton Corridor, from Swain Street to Sunnybrook Road.

For more information call the Office of Transportation Planning at 919-996-2155.

Council Approves Critical Public Safety Facility Contract Amendment



During its regular meeting Feb. 19, the Raleigh City Council authorized the City administration to proceed with execution of a \$2,145,648 contract amendment for continuation of the design development of the proposed \$69 million Critical Public Safety Facility. The facility

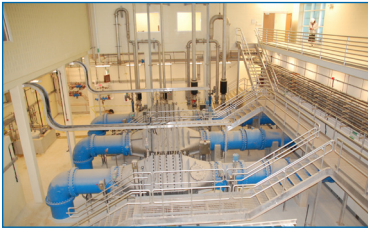
site is a vacant six-acre, City-owned parcel at the corner of North Raleigh Boulevard and Brentwood Road.

The Raleigh City Manager was authorized by Council at its December 4, 2012 meeting to pursue the contract amendment with Pearce, Brinkley, Cease and Lee/AECOM Architects. Council will receive additional requests in the future for amendments to authorize remaining budgeted design and construction phase services required to complete the project.

The facility will include an emergency communications center, an emergency operations center and an information technology data center.

For more information visit www.raleighnc.gov or call the City of Raleigh Public Works Department at 919-996-3030.

Supply Enhancement Project Approved for Dempsey E. Benton Water Treatment Plant



The Raleigh City Council, on Feb. 19, approved the selection of Wharton-Smith, Inc. of Sanford, Fla., for the Backwash Waste Clarification Facility project at the Dempsey E. Benton Water Treatment Plant.

The project will recycle treated filter backwash water back to Lake Benson for water supply enhancement. The project consists of constructing a backwash waste clarification facility on the existing site of the Dempsey E. Benton Water Treatment Plant. The facility was originally designed and bid as part of the water treatment plant construction project in 2006, but was removed from the project scope due to the construction bid exceeding available funding for the plant.

The work includes the construction of a backwash waste clarification building, installation of a dissolved air flotation (DAF) clarification system and associated ancillary equipment, a DAF pumping station, an ultra violet disinfection system for the clarified filter backwash water, chemical storage and associated feed systems, an supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA)/ instrumentation systems and security system..

Wharton-Smith, Inc. submitted the lowest responsible bid of \$6,272,000. The company has successfully completed several similar projects in North Carolina, and submitted an 11.4 percent Small Disadvantaged Minority and Women Owned Business (SDMWOB) participation plan. The project has been approved for funding in part by the Federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program and by the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) Funding Program.

Climate Energy Action Plan Implementation Steps Approved

In December, the Raleigh City Council received the Climate Energy Action Plan (CEAP): A Roadmap to Raleigh's Energy Future. On Feb. 19, the Council approved several specific implementation steps for the plan.

These steps include recommendations to:

- Develop and implement a data management system to document cost savings and carbon reductions. This includes establishing a benchmark for dollars per ton of carbon;
- Integrate the Business Case Evaluations and CEAP project prioritization into the annual Capital Improvement Plan process and into the annual operating budget analysis process;
- Collaborate with local power providers to maximize financial and environmental benefits for Raleigh;
- Develop a renewable energy plan for the City that may include the value of renewable energy credits and may consider any potential carbon market legislation that may be forthcoming from the federal government;

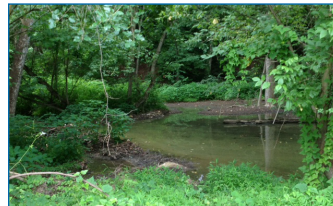
- Include energy assurance and the energy interdependencies within the City;
- Establish a community-wide energy and carbon reduction program; and,
- Establish and implement a fleet transformation plan that addresses the goals of the CEAP and a plan for the necessary infrastructure to support a new fleet with appropriate fueling and maintenance facilities.

Council Approves Contract Amendment for Downtown Remote Operations Facility

On Jan. 15, the Raleigh City Council authorized City staff to negotiate and execute a contract amendment with Williard Fern Architects to continue with design services associated with the proposed \$52 million Downtown Remote Operations Facility. A change in the amount of \$815,000 has been negotiated for completion of design and construction documents. On Feb. 19, the Raleigh City Council authorized the City administration to proceed with the execution of the contract amendment.

The facility will accommodate the City's Street Maintenance, Traffic Engineering, and Vehicle Fleet Services staffs. It will be located on City-owned land east of I-440, between Capital Boulevard and Raleigh Boulevard on land that was formerly occupied by Westinghouse.

Loan Will Restore Longview Lake



The Raleigh City Council, Feb. 19, passed a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a \$2,200,000 loan on the City's behalf from the State of North Carolina Infrastructure Finance Section, Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The loan

will fund the Upper Longview Lake and Stream Enhancement Project. The project includes approximately 3500 linear feet of stream stabilization and 2.7 acres of lake preservation and wetland improvements along Locke Lane, Bertie Drive and Longview Lake Drive.

Planting and reshaping the banks will be the primary methods used for stream stabilization. Removal of sediment deposited over the years will help restore lake volume and improve the water quality through naturally occurring processes using plants to reduce nutrients. An engineered rock wall will be used to address safety issues near the bleachers at the Enloe High School athletic field and some sidewalks and utility infrastructure will be repaired.

The loan will be paid back over a 20-year period at zero percent interest. All funding for this project will be paid by the City of Raleigh stormwater utility fees.

For more information visit "Upper Longview Lake and Stream Enhancement Project" on the city's website, or call the City of Raleigh Stormwater Utility Division at 919-996-3940 or at stormwaterutilityhelpingu@raleighnc.gov.

Council Approves Housing Project Aimed at Homeless Veterans

In an attempt to best serve those who have sacrificed much for their country, the Raleigh City Council Feb. 19 approved a joint venture rental 10-unit housing proposal with CASA. Three of the units will be reserved for persons earning less than 30 percent of the area median income. The seven remaining units will be for those earning less than 40 percent of the area median income. Veterans will be prioritized for all units. The \$1.2 million project includes the City's commitment of approximately \$400,000. The money will come from HOME funds from the 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 fiscal years. Wake County also will contribute approximately \$400,000. The United States Housing and Urban Development will contribute approximately \$317,000 and the remaining \$83,000 will come from CASA.

The units will be located at 409 Sunnybrook Road. The location is close to other affordable developments also managed by CASA, reducing management costs. The site is also very close to a Veteran's Affairs clinic offering supportive services for military veterans.

The project will be the 16th joint venture rental housing unit the City has participated in since the beginning of the most recent economic recession in 2008.

Those 16 complexes will provide 683 units for those in need of affordable housing. The projects include:

- Autumn Spring – Approved in May of 2008, the City contributed \$850,000 for the 48-unit project at 3701 Eck Drive;
- Brighton Pointe – Approved in May of 2012, the 80-unit complex at 3100 Forestville Road was made possible with a \$1.36 million contribution from the City;
- Brown Birch Addition – Located at the 1200 blocks of Sawyer Road and Angelus Drive, the 2011 Housing Bond project rehabilitated the six-building complex with \$200,000 in municipal funds;
- Coleman Street Redevelopment – A \$400,000 commitment from the City in 2012 helped develop the 18-unit complex located at 1002 Coleman Street;
- George's Mews – Approved in 2008 and using nearly \$1 million bond funds, the 26-unit complex was rehabilitated by CASA;
- Meadowcreek Commons – Located at 1600 Royal Pines Drive, the City's \$1.2 million contribution helped fund the 48-unit complex in 2009;
- Murphey School – Located at 443 N. Person Street, the City provided \$480,000 in 2010 bond funds for the rehabilitation of the 48 unit complex;
- Poyner Spring – The City contributed \$700,000 from the 2011 bond project towards the 42-unit complex located at the intersection of Fox Road and Town Drive;
- Raleigh Gardens – Located at 6145 St. Giles Street, the 2010 bond project used \$600,000 of municipal funds to rehabilitate more than 125 units;
- Rich Park – A 2011 bond project, the 100-unit complex used \$548,000 in City funds for its rehabilitation;

- SouthLight – Located at Newcombe and Garner roads, the 2012 bond project used \$450,000 to build 16 units;
- Sunnybrook Apartments – The 10-unit complex at 409 Sunnybrook Road used \$426,860 in municipal funds;
- Wake Interfaith Housing Network – A 2010 bond project, the 12-unit complex was completed with approximately \$444,000 in City funds at 907 Method Road;
- Water Garden Park – Located at 8408 Glenwood Avenue, the approximately \$1.3 million project provides 88 units; and,
- Water Garden Village – Also located at 8408 Glenwood Avenue, the 60-unit complex was completed with nearly \$1.4 million in municipal funds.

For more information, contact Aimee Holtsclaw, 919-996-4330.

Three New Appointees Made To City Boards

During its meeting on Feb. 19, three new appointees were named to City of Raleigh commissions.

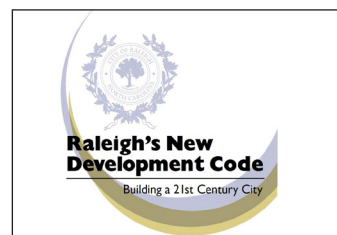
David Rose was reappointed to the City of Raleigh Convention Center Commission. Anthony Pecoraro and Ray Magsonoc were appointed to the City of Raleigh Transit Authority.

Raleigh residents have the opportunity to volunteer their services to the City to serve without pay on various boards, commissions and committees. Some of these groups are established in the City Charter. Others are created by the Mayor or City Council to perform special, limited functions.

Where not specified by law, it is the City's policy to appoint citizens to serve two-year terms with a maximum of six consecutive years of service on any specific board or commission. Citizens may serve on no more than two commissions, boards or committees concurrently.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov and enter "boards, commissions and committees" in the search box, or contact the City Clerk's Office, 919-996-3040

Raleigh Adopts a 21st Century Development Code



On February 18, the Raleigh City Council voted to approve the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The effective date is September 1, 2013. The new code is designed to address development trends over the next 30 to 50 years.

The UDO allows for more compact walkable development in the urban core and major corridors. Features such as wider sidewalks and bike facilities will become part of the fabric of these areas.

According to Mitchell Silver, Raleigh's chief planning and development officer, "With adoption of the new development,

Raleigh now has the framework for building a 21st century city with more walkable places, better protection for neighborhoods and easier rules to understand.”

As Raleigh expands by 120,000 households over the next 20 years, the UDO will support smarter growth by providing for greater density and efficient use of infrastructure. With the new code comes greater predictability for neighborhoods and developers.

The new regulations shift most of the development approvals to staff providing the predictability the development community has been requesting. Neighborhoods will be protected by new rules that require higher density and non-residential development to transition to adjacent neighborhoods.

Over the next two months, staff will work to finalize the changes recommended by City Council. Staff expects to take the final draft document to City Council in the May-June time frame for final adoption. Other work includes a Citywide remapping exercise to apply the new zoning districts, public outreach and education for the development community.

For more information, visit www.raleighnc.gov, keyword search “UDO”, or call Mitchell Silver, AICP, chief planning and development officer and Planning director, 919-996-2626.

City Council Amends Animal Control Ordinance for Dangerous Dogs



The Raleigh City Council on Feb. 19 approved amendments to the City’s animal control ordinance to define “dangerous” and “potentially dangerous” dogs.

The amendments to the City of Raleigh ordinance defines the term “dangerous dog” as any dog that has been determined by City of Raleigh Animal Control to be dangerous as defined by North Carolina General Statutes 67-4.1. State law defines a “dangerous dog” as a dog that without provocation has killed or inflicted severe injury on a person or is determined by the person or board designated by the county or municipal authority responsible for animal control to be potentially dangerous. A dangerous dog also is any dog owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of dog fighting, or any dog trained for dog fighting

The term “potentially dangerous” dog as defined in N.C.G.S. 67-4.1 means a dog that the person or board designated by the county or municipal authority responsible for animal control determines to have inflicted a bite on a person that resulted in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations or required cosmetic surgery or hospitalization or killed or inflicted severe injury upon a domestic animal when not on the owner’s real property. A potentially dangerous dog is also defined as one that approached a person when not on the owner’s property in a vicious or terrorizing manner in an apparent attitude of attack.

In addition, the amendments allow any dangerous or potentially dangerous dog that is not kept in accordance with the requirements of N.C.G.S. 67-4.1 may be confiscated by an animal control officer and harbored at the owner’s expense until the owner complies with the requirements.

According to State of North Carolina law, it is unlawful for an owner to:

- Leave a dangerous dog unattended on the owner’s real property unless the dog is confined indoors, in a securely enclosed and locked pen, or in another structure designed to restrain the dog; and,
- Permit a dangerous dog to go beyond the owner’s real property unless the dog is leashed and muzzled or is otherwise securely restrained and muzzled.

City to Seek Funding for Sanitary Sewer Improvement Projects

The City of Raleigh will seek financing from the North Carolina Clean Water State Revolving Fund for two sanitary sewer improvement projects. The City Council voted unanimously on Feb. 19 to adopt resolutions to apply for the funds.

If approved, funds from the North Carolina Clean Water State Revolving Fund would be used for the Richland Creek and Smith Creek sanitary sewer improvement projects, both in Wake Forest. The revolving fund provides loans to local governments for water quality improvement projects.

No Ammonia in March Water

The City of Raleigh will temporarily stop adding ammonia to its water treatment disinfecting process on Friday, March 1 at 10 a.m. The change in treatment is required by federal and state regulations governing the operation of the City’s water system. The City will resume adding ammonia to the water treatment process on April 12th at 10 a.m.

Using ammonia in the treatment process reduces the amount of trihalomethanes, a by-product formed when water is disinfected with chlorine. The one-month return to chlorine-only disinfecting is not expected to cause any significant increase in trihalomethanes. Trihalomethane levels are strictly regulated in drinking water. The City of Raleigh has maintained compliance with all limits on trihalomethanes since regulations were put in place in 1981.

Some users of water may be affected by the temporary change in the treatment process. Water customers should be aware that residual traces of ammonia and chlorine must be removed from the water prior to use in fish tanks and ponds, kidney dialysis and some commercial manufacturing of food and beverages.

The City also conducts flushing of the water distribution system during this period to hasten the change of chloramines to chlorine residual disinfectant. This flushing may cause some temporary discoloration in the water. The water is absolutely safe. However, as a precaution, customers may want to check to see if their water is discolored before laundering white clothes.

Water customers affected by this change include those who pay water bills to the City of Raleigh and to the towns of Rolesville, Garner, Knightdale, Holly Springs, Wendell, Wake Forest, Zebulon and Fuquay-Varina.

Questions about this change in water treatment should be directed to Edward Buchan, Public Utilities Environmental Coordinator, 919-996-4540 or email edward.buchan@raleighnc.gov or send comments City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department, P.O. Box 590, Raleigh, NC 27602.

City Council Awards Contract for Lake Wheeler Road Improvements

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously, on Feb. 19, to award a construction contract to Barnhill Contracting Company for the Lake Wheeler Road Pedestrian and Turn Lane Improvements Project. The contract amount totals \$575,801.50, which was the low bid.

The City Council awarded the contract pending concurrence by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The project consists of pedestrian and intersection improvements on Lake Wheeler Road from Tryon Road to Centennial Parkway. The purpose of the project is to enhance pedestrian accommodations and safety and improve the capacity of Lake Wheeler Road to handle high volumes of traffic.

For more information, contact Sylvester Percival, 919-996-3030.

Approval Given to Loan to Acquire New Site for Crabtree Jones House

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously, on Feb. 19, to approve a \$100,000 loan for the relocation of the Crabtree Jones House. The funds will be used to purchase a lot at 3108 Hillmer Drive, where the Crabtree Jones House will be moved from its current location at 3105 Wake Forest Road. The lot on Hillmer Drive is still part of the original Jones plantation property and is located a short distance from the current site and the Jones family cemetery.

The Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) requested the loan from the City's Preservation Revolving Loan Fund. The funds, in turn, will be lent by RHDC to the nonprofit Preservation North Carolina for the purchase of the Hillmer Drive lot.

The revolving loan fund is designed specifically to provide gap financing for historic preservation projects. Loan payments reimburse the fund and allow funds to be used for future projects. The fund balance is currently depleted until loan repayments occur. The loan for the Crabtree Jones House's new location will be repaid in three years or when the Crabtree Jones House is sold by Preservation North Carolina for rehabilitation, whichever comes first.

Built around 1795, the Crabtree Jones House is a Federal-style plantation house that features molded weatherboards,

modillion cornice, Fleming bond chimneys and six-panel doors. Nathaniel Jones, an early Wake County settler, built the dwelling. The Crabtree Jones House was designated a Raleigh Historic Landmark in 1968.

For more information, contact Martha Lauer, 919-996-2649.

Oberlin Cemetery Designated as Historic Landmark

The Raleigh City Council, on Feb. 19, approved the designation of the Oberlin Cemetery as an historic landmark.

The Oberlin Cemetery, located at 1014 Oberlin Road, is historically and culturally significant as an early and rare black cemetery in Raleigh. The cemetery is also one of the most significant surviving historic landmarks in Oberlin Village, the largest freedmen's village in Wake County during the Reconstruction Era. Oberlin Cemetery was established in 1873 but may have originated as an earlier slave grave yard.

The cemetery occupies a 2.93 acre rectangular site in Oberlin Village hidden behind large buildings in the center of a triangle area bounded by Oberlin Road, Wade Avenue and Daniel Street. The total number of graves is believed to be approximately 600; however, only approximately 145 scattered monuments of stone and concrete, including one zinc monument and one wood grave marker are visible. Artistically the monuments represent the work of professional stonecutters in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

With this action, there are 151 designated Raleigh Historic Landmarks. For more information, contact Tania Tully, Planning and Development Department at 919-996-2674 or visit the Raleigh Historic Development Commission website at www.rhdc.org.

Additional Funding Increases Participation in City of Raleigh Summer Youth Employment Program

A \$50,000 increase in funding; provided by action of the Raleigh City Council, means good news for approximately 28 additional City youth who apply to participate in the City of Raleigh Summer Youth Employment Program this year. The hiring goal for 2013 is 165 teens between 15 and 18 years of age as of May 31, who live within Raleigh city limits.

The program, managed by the City of Raleigh Community Services Department, helps participating teens develop their skills and prepare for future employment. Teens accepted into the program work 20 to 30 hours a week from June 17 to August 16 and earn \$7.25 an hour. Only one person per household may participate.



Applicants must provide the names and contact information for three references and also prove their age and residency by submitting a clear photocopy of a North Carolina driver's license, a North Carolina learner's permit, or a North Carolina state identification card. No other forms of identification will be accepted.

Summer youth jobs include office staffers, light labor, and recreation counselors. Many summer youth employees participate in life skills development workshops throughout the year. The workshops help young people develop leadership characteristics and other skills. The sessions cover such topics as employment preparedness, communication, budgeting, decision-making and conflict resolution.

Summer Youth workers are trained and certified in the seven principals of "Bring Your A-Game to Work," a national work ethic proficiency curriculum. They are also encouraged to take part in Lunch with a Lawyer and Law Enforcement; sponsored by the Wake County Bar Association and the Raleigh Police Department.

The City will begin accepting applications and conducting interviews for its Summer Youth Employment Program in March, between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the following places and dates:

Tuesday, March 5 | Millbrook Exchange Park,
1905 Spring Forest Road;

Thursday, March 7 | Biltmore Hills Community Center,
2615 Fitzgerald Drive;

Monday, March 11 | Lake Lynn Community Center,
7921 Ray Road;

Wednesday, March 13 | Marsh Creek Community Center,
3050 New Hope Road;

Friday, March 15 | Roberts Park Community Center,
1300 East Martin Street;

Tuesday, March 19 | Chavis Community Center,
505 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard;

Thursday, March 21 | Tarboro Road Community Center,
121 Tarboro Road;

Monday, March 25 | Worthdale Community Center,
101 Cooper Road;

Wednesday, March 27 | Lions Park Community Center,
516 Dennis Avenue; and,

Friday, March 29 | Method Pioneer Building,
514 Method Road.

For more information, visit www.raleighnc.gov and enter "Summer Youth Employment" in the search window, or contact Cathey Ector, Community Services Department, 919-996-6100.

City Receives FEMA Grant for Flood Mitigation on Capital Boulevard

On Feb. 19, the Raleigh City Council approved a grant award of \$1,467, 713 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the acquisition and demolition of five structures at the Milner Inn on Capital Boulevard



The Milner Inn, located at 1817 Capital Boulevard, is adjacent to the Pigeon House Creek in the 100-year flood plain and is subject to repeated flooding. City matching funds are not required for this project. Acquisition and project management will be handled by City staff.

For more information, contact Danny Bowden, 919-996-3940.

City Offers Free Training on Energy Conservation on Feb. 28

The City of Raleigh Small Business Assistance Program is offering a free training session on energy conservation. The training will be held on Feb. 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Classroom 4 at the City's Wilders Grove Solid Waste Services Operations Center, 630 Beacon Lake Drive.

Though the training is open to the general public, it is geared to Small Disadvantaged Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses. The training will be provided by the City's Sustainable Home Raleigh Program.

Online registration must be completed before Feb. 26. Participants will be eligible to receive a Sustainable Home Raleigh starter kit worth more than \$75.

For more information about the energy conservation training session, contact the City of Raleigh Small Business Assistance Program at 919-996-3840.

Human Relations Commission Names Four Winners of Annual Awards



A longtime African-American newspaper, a high school student dedicated to community service, the founder of a Raleigh ministry and an organization that provides a myriad of outreach programs are the recipients of the City of Raleigh Human Relations Commission's annual awards.

The winners of the Human Relations Awards were honored Thursday night at the Human Relations Commission's 24th Annual Awards Banquet at the Raleigh Convention Center. The commission selected the award winners for their contributions to positive human relations in the Raleigh.

Receiving the annual awards were:

- **The Carolinian**, Raleigh's African-American newspaper for the past 73 years, was given the Business Award. The publication provides coverage of the entire Raleigh community, providing a voice especially to local churches and advocacy groups. The policy of The Carolinian is to deal fairly and equitably with all men. Paul Jervay Sr. established the newspaper in 1940. During the civil rights era, The Carolinian closely followed the stories and story makers, becoming a valuable link for North Carolina citizens to the movement. Today under the leadership of Paul Jervay Jr., the newspaper continues its commitment to reinforce the works, contributions and significance of the African-American community and its culture;

- **Tia Westmoreland**, a junior and academic scholar at Millbrook High School, received the George E. Sanders Youth Award. A leader among her peers, Tia is actively involved both in school and community activities. She has a passion for volunteerism and works with several local groups to provide support to the homeless, food banks, senior citizens and youth advocacy programs. She has traveled to Washington, D.C. on a mission trip, with plans for another mission trip to Peru in the spring. Tia is an active member of the Clarence E. Lightner Y Achievers, You thrive Leadership Academy, Millbrook High School Student Government, and was recently inducted as a member to the National Achievers Society;
- **Rev. Dr. Portia W. Rochelle** was given the Individual Award. She founded A Word Transformation Ministry in 2002 and through the ministry has sponsored a women's clothing closet, resume preparation services, and mentoring programs. Dr. Rochelle has also volunteered with Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Enloe High School. She has served on the board of Women in Ministry Support Group, Raleigh International Ministerial Alliance, and the Raleigh Apex NAACP Branch. Dr. Rochelle dedicates most of her efforts on behalf of citizens who have been treated unjustly. She says lives are transformed when people are treated with dignity and love; and,
- **The Islamic Association of Raleigh** received the Nonprofit Award. Though the association is dedicated to members of the Islamic faith and culture, it supports and engages non-Muslims as well. The Islamic Association's outreach efforts include operating a food pantry, providing school supplies, and distributing clothes and winter coats to people in need. The organization's volunteers assist residents with cooking and cleaning and providing transportation to medical appointments. Recently the Islamic Association has begun a recycling program to collect aluminum cans, plastic bottles and paper. The organization also offers educational programs, including English as a Second Language classes, and provides support to refugee families. Activities also are available for youth and young adults.

The City of Raleigh Human Relations Commission sponsors the annual awards as part of its effort to promote activities that enhance human dignity, equal opportunity, mutual respect and harmony among Raleigh residents. The Human Relations Commission, an advisory board, is one of the City boards and commissions appointed by the City Council.

The City of Raleigh Community Services Department helps coordinate the work of the Human Relations Commission. To learn more about the Human Relations Commission or its annual awards, contact Marionna Poke-Stewart at 919-996-6100 or email marionna.poke-stewart@raleighnc.gov.

Arts Commission Announces 20th Annual Gifts of Gold Arts Celebration

More than 100 Wake County students --- kindergarten to high school seniors --- will be represented in the 20th annual Gifts of Gold arts celebration as part of the Pieces of Gold performing arts extravaganza. A temporary art gallery will showcase two- and three-dimensional creations by area students. The artwork will be on display March 12-13 in the lobby of Memorial Auditorium

at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts. A Gifts of Gold awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday, March 12 at 4:30 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium.

The 2013 Gifts of Gold presentation is a collaboration of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, Wake County Public School System and the Wake Education Partnership.

"Gifts of Gold provides K-12 visual art students all across the district a chance to share their artwork with the entire community," said Elizabeth Grimes-Droessler, senior administrator-arts education for the Wake County Public School System. "To have your work adjudicated by some of Raleigh's finest professional artists and then for it to be displayed in an elegant venue like the lobby of Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium is an opportunity of a lifetime!"

The winning artists, their teachers and schools are:

- **Best in Show** | Davin Kim, Corneille Little, Cedar Fork Elementary
- **First Place Elementary School** | Ava Mayo, MaryBeth Hansley, Holly Springs Elementary
- **Second Place Elementary School** | Ramiro Patrana Reys, Rosemary Douna, Zebulon Elementary
- **Third Place Elementary School** | Tanvi Komaragiri, Sonya Drum, Washington Elementary
- **First Place Middle School** | Lauren Matsumura, Elizabeth Rawls, Carnage Middle
- **Second Place Middle School** | Jacob Grady, Lisa Peszko, Zebulon GT Middle
- **Third Place Middle School** | Kayla Davis, Ann Foster, Dillard Drive Middle
- **First Place High School** | Kevin Lee, Farrall Hilton, Athens Drive High
- **Second Place High School** | Brennan Lewis, Susan Euler, Enloe High
- **Third Place High School** | Kenneth Feliciano Ortiz, Brenda Brokke, Apex High
- **First Place 3-D Art** | Kevin Liu, Rebekah Arrington, Mills Park Middle
- **Second Place 3-D Art** | Nhyla Bryant, Terry McManus, Harris Creek Year Round Elementary; and,
- **Third Place 3-D Art** | Anna Edstrom, Ray Puckett, Enloe High

Wake County art teachers were encouraged to submit two- or three-dimensional student art as part of Gifts of Gold. Images of the winning artwork and a complete list of student participants are available online.

"The Gifts of Gold art show gives Wake County students of all ages the opportunity to showcase their creative development," said Raleigh artist Bob Rankin, a Gifts of Gold judge. "The quality of the work is a true testimony to the excellence and power of Wake County art educators. The work will be seen by several thousand people during the Pieces of Gold celebration."

For more information about Gifts of Gold, contact Belva Parker, program director for the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, at 919-996-4683 or email belva.parker@raleighnc.gov.

Council Member Odom Welcomes RTI International's Operation Center to Raleigh



In 1958, Raleigh had less than 90,000 residents. In the ensuing 55 years, Raleigh's population has boomed by more than 450 percent. One of the reasons for this growth was the opening in that year of the Research Triangle Institute (RTI), Raleigh City Council Member John Odom

said, on Feb. 21, at the official opening of the Research Triangle Institute International's Research Operations Center on Capital Boulevard.

"We appreciate what you have meant to this city over the past six decades, but we appreciate your continued commitment even more," Mr. Odom said. "We welcome these 490 jobs not only to Raleigh but here on Capital Boulevard."

RTI International's Research Operations Center employs 450 data collection specialists and 40 supervisors. The new center consolidates operations that support more than 50 ongoing research projects for federal and state agencies, as well as commercial clients. In the past year, growth in RTI International's survey research business has nearly doubled the number of people who work at the center.

Mr. Odom joined RTI International President and CEO Wayne Holden in the official opening. He said the 2,200 people that RTI International employs in the area and RTI International's projects contribute \$454 million to the region. He also acknowledged RTI International's generosity, noting the \$603,000 the institute and its employees made to local charities in 2012.

RTI International was established in the Research Triangle Park in 1958. RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. The institute's staff of 3,700 works from seven regional offices in the United States and 10 offices in nine nations.

Public Meeting Set for Feb. 28 on Clark Avenue Sidewalk Project

Residents are invited to attend a public meeting on a sidewalk project proposed for Clark Avenue. The City of Raleigh is holding the public meeting from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Feb. 28 at Jaycee Community Center, 2405 Wade Ave.

The proposed project would install sidewalks in areas of Clark Avenue that do not have them from approximately 350 feet east of Woodburn Road to Bellwood Drive. This is one of the sidewalk projects that will be funded by a \$40 million transportation bond issue approved by Raleigh voters in 2011. The bond issue included funds for new sidewalks and sidewalk repairs.

City engineers have completed initial studies and preliminary design mapping for the Clark Avenue sidewalk project. Residents will be allowed to see the design and ask questions at the public meeting.

People with hearing impairments can arrange for interpreter services at the public meeting by contacting the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at 919-996-3100 no less than 48 hours prior to the public meeting.

For more information, contact Project Engineer Sammy Wood with the City of Raleigh Public Works Department at 919-996-3030 or sammy.wood@raleighnc.gov.

Transit Operations Center Receives Highest LEED Certification

The City of Raleigh's state-of-the-art Transit Operations Center has attained LEED Platinum certification, the highest rating given by the U.S. Green Building Council for meeting high standards of environmentally sustainable construction. The Transit Operations Center is among the largest projects nationally to join the elite group of integrated facilities to achieve LEED Platinum status.

The Green Building Council notified the City this week that the Transit Operations Center has earned enough credits for LEED Platinum certification. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The LEED rating system offers four certification levels for new construction ---- certified, silver, gold and platinum. These levels correspond to the number of credits accrued in five green design categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resource, and indoor environmental quality.

"Everyone at Capital Area Transit (CAT) is very excited the Transit Operations Center has earned LEED Platinum certification," City Transit Administrator David Eatman said. "The design and function of the facility has improved employee productivity while using green building practices and reducing our energy consumption."

The \$24 million Transit Operations Center opened in May 2011 on 23 acres at 4104 Poole Road, just east of Interstate 440 beltline. It was built to replace CAT's outdated operations facility on Blount Street.

The Transit Operations Center consists of a nearly 27,400-square-foot, two-story operations administration building; a single-story maintenance building of 56,000 square feet, with 14 service bays; a 7,500-square-foot bus wash; a two-lane fueling depot; and a bus shelter on Poole Road for CAT riders. The operations center can accommodate a 125-bus fleet, with the ability for expansion to 200 buses.

Just as impressive as the physical layout of the Transit Operations Center are its many green building sustainable features. These include:

- Geothermal wells that provide high efficiency heating and cooling;
- Radiant floor heating in the Maintenance Building which helps maintain optimum thermal conditions;

- Reflective white roofs and concrete to minimize the heat-island effect, reducing demand on air conditioning systems;
- Water-saving plumbing fixtures and rainwater collection cisterns that minimize water usage from the municipal system;
- Rapidly renewable and long-life durable local materials such as wool-blend carpeting. The flooring, cabinetry and countertops are made from bamboo, a more sustainable and more durable product; and,
- Low-volatile organic compound paint and adhesives and frequent fresh air exchanges that improve the air quality within the facility.

Though the Transit Operations Center has only been open for less than two years, it has received national and regional recognition. In addition to the LEED Platinum certification, the complex was named Project of the Year in 2012 by the American Public Works Association and has received the Excellence in Construction and Merit Awards from the Associated Builders and Contractors of the Carolinas. Other honors given to the facility include the City of Raleigh's Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Community Appearance and the City's Environmental Award for institutional innovation.

Sewer Rate Increase Among Items Approved By Council At Public Utilities Meeting

The Raleigh City Council approved several recommendations presented by the Public Utilities Department during their annual retreat held Feb. 20 at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex Downtown.

Council gave preliminary approval of increases to the sewer rate and water/sewer administration fee, as recommended by staff. If approved by Council to be included in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget, the increases would go into effect July 1, 2013. The City staff had sought this preliminary approval to allow the staff adequate time to program the rate and fee changes into the billing mechanism and provide notification to customers.

The changes recommended by staff include a change in the sewer consumptive rate from \$3.35 per hundred cubic feet (ccf) to \$3.82 per ccf; increases in administrative fees from \$5.81 each month to \$5.98 for water and \$6.56 for sewer for 5/8-inch meter customers. There will be no increase to the water use rate per volume. The proposed rate increases reflect an increase of \$3.74 per month for a 6 ccf residential customer. (Monthly use of 6 ccf is close to the average for residential customers.) The changes will be reflected in bills received on or after July 1, 2013.

Staff also recommended and Council approved adding the items listed in the Environmental Services and Programs Memorandum to the City's legislative agenda.

Some of the recommended items listed are:

- Encourage Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue to support and update the Clean Water Act (CWA) and to consider CWA amendments that facilitate integration of environmental, social and economic benefits;

- Encourage EPA and Congress to focus on pollution prevention;
- Encourage Congress and the administration to direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency and EPA to focus on recovery of listed Endangered Species;
- Urge the protection and preservation of the nation's groundwater and support EPA's development of a clear national ground-water strategy;
- Support national and state development of traditional and alternative water resource options; and,
- Encourage focus on source control of identified emerging contaminants and continued research to establish priorities based on sound science and actual risk.

The City Attorney's Office is to pursue the legislative agenda. The Council also approved appropriate City Departments offering technical comments and participating in one or more meetings with Raleigh's Congressional delegation to encourage support.

For more information, contact Robert Massengill, 919-996-3473.

Sertoma Arts Center to Celebrate National Youth Art Month



To celebrate National Youth Art Month, the City of Raleigh's Sertoma Arts Center will feature an exhibit of youth artwork throughout March. The arts center is located at 1400 W. Millbrook Road.

An opening reception will take place at the Sertoma Arts Center on Sunday, March 3 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to the art display, there will be live music at the reception, including a performance by the arts center's own Raleigh Children's Orchestra, conducted by Ilse Mann. The reception is free and open to the public. Bruegger's Bagels will provide light snacks.

A wide range of art projects from Wake County schoolchildren and Sertoma Youth Art students will fill the arts center throughout March, with artists ranging in age from preschool to high school seniors.

"Sertoma Arts Center offers an array of programs that enable Raleigh youth to learn the importance of teamwork, practice, and problem solving while experiencing the joy of creativity and performance," said Jerry Bolas, executive director of the City's Arts Commission. "This is a great opportunity to enjoy the spirit and accomplishment of youth from our community and to learn more about the programs at Sertoma."

Through education, exhibitions, group support, and outreach, the Sertoma Arts Center provides a destination for artists and arts lovers of all ages, offering the community the opportunity to enjoy the arts in a creative environment.

For more information, contact Sertoma Arts Center Director Jill Brown at 919-420-2329 or Jill.Brown@raleighnc.gov.

Sign Up for MyRaleigh Subscriptions for Free

My Raleigh Subscriptions is a free, subscription-based service offered to residents by the City of Raleigh. This service allows the City to provide residents access to relevant information by proactively delivering new information through email and wireless alerts.

Subscribers may select to receive email or text message notifications about a variety of City topics. The 100 plus topics range from alerts, newsletters, meeting agendas, new releases, event information, project updates, service notices to recreation information.

To learn more, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov and go to MyRaleigh Subscriptions in the upper right corner.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter

Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter! Twitter is a free services that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. To join in, visit

Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

RaleighGov - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

RaleighBPAC - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission;

RaleighParks - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department;

RaleighPlanning - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Planning and Development Department;

RalCommServices - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Community Services Department;

RW911 - This feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center;

RaleighGoGreen - This feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program.

RalPublicArt - This feed features news and information related to the City of Raleigh Arts Commission's public art program.

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook

City of Raleigh - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

Raleigh Police Department -The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city.

Traffic Alerts

For more City of Raleigh News and Updates on Road Closures, Parades and Road Races, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov.

ROAD RACES

March 2 Traffic will be affected from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. by a road race. Information on the race can be found at <http://getyourrearingear.com/events/list/2012/raleigh-nc-2012/>.

March 3 Traffic will be affected near Lowden Street by a road race from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The route will take runners on Noble Road, left on the greenway, right on Oxford Road, cross Anderson Drive, right on the greenway, and return to the school along the same route.

March 9 Traffic will be affected downtown by a road race from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Information on the race can be found at <http://www.raleighnc.gov/arts/news/content/CorNews/Articles/RunForTheOaks2013.html>

March 16 Traffic will be affected from 7:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. by a road race near Fox Road and Perry Creek Road. Information can be found at <http://www.waketech.edu/community/road-scholars>.

March 24 Traffic will be affected downtown by a road race from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Information on the race can be found at <http://www.second-empire.com/race/>.

STREET CLOSINGS

March 1 - September 9 Haymarket Lane will be closed from Harps Mill Road to Vauxhill Drive until September 9 due to stormwater improvement projects.

March 30 City Plaza on the 400 block of Fayetteville Street will be closed from noon until midnight.

NewsCOR is also available electronically. Please contact the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at 919-996-3100 if you would prefer to receive NewsCOR by email.